

In the Claims

1-17 (canceled).

18 (currently amended). An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein comprising a membrane-spanning domain of an endocytotic receptor and an extracellular domain, wherein said extracellular domain binds biotin, and wherein said protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2.

19-24 (canceled).

25 (previously presented). A recombinant expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 18.

26 (currently amended). The recombinant expression vector according to claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 1071-2270 of SEQ ID NO. 1 ~~the protein encoded by said nucleic acid molecule comprises the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO. 2.~~

27 (previously presented). The recombinant expression vector according to claim 25, wherein said expression vector is a retrovirus vector.

28. (previously presented). A process for the production of a protein that comprises a membrane-spanning domain and an extracellular domain, wherein said extracellular domain binds biotin, said method comprising transfecting a cell line with a recombinant expression vector according to claim 25, and expressing said protein in the transfected cells.

29-37 (canceled).